(b) and (c) During the Seventh Plan, considerable emphasis been laid for cooperative development. The important objectives include, among others, cooperative development of Primary Agricultural Credit Societies to function as multipurpose viable units, realignment of the policies and procedures of cooperatives to expand the flow of credit and ensuring supply of inputs and services, particularly to the weaker sections. "Cooperative Societies" being a State subject, the State Government take various measures for strengthening the cooperatives in line with the objectives enumerated above. The progress and problems of cooperatives are also being reviewed by the Government from time to time in the annual conferences. The various measures including those for improving recovery of overdues, stepping up the flow of credit for agricultural production, strengthening the cooperative system for distribution of inputs and marketing of agricultural produce and timely holding of elections by cooperatives as finalised by the conference held in December, 1987, have been recommended to the State Governments for necessary follow up action.

ICAR collaboration with CIAT on tropical agriculture

464. SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Council of Agricultural Research and the Centre International Agriculture Tropical (CIAT) have made collaboration in the field of research and training in tropical agricultural commodities;

(b) if so, the details of such collaborations made; and

(c) to what extent the collaboration is likely boost the agricultural production in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HARI KRISHNA SHASTRI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A Memorandum of Agreement has been signed on 17th June, 1988 between ICAR and CIAT for collaboration in the field of Agricultural Research and Training in Tropical Agricultural Commodities. The Memorandum, *inter-alia*, includes exchange of useful Germplasm, training of Indian Scientists and Exchange of information and methodologies. (*See* Appendix CXLVII, Annexure No. 20).

(c) The collaboration is likely to accelerate the progress of Research and Training in Tropical Agriculture which may return load to increased production and development of Cassava field Beans, Rice and Tropical Pastures.

Loss due to pests attack

465. SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether due to growing number of pests attack on agricultural crops, the country is losing about Rs. 6000 crore every year according to the research conducted by the ICAR:

(b) whether the ICAR has taken any steps to save the agricultural crops from the pests attack; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and further steps Government propose to take in the near future in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HARI KRISHNA SHASTRI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) To minimise such losses, the Indian Council of Agricultural Research has been supporting research on plant protection in its crop based Institutes, Agricultural Universities and various crop improvement projects. In addition, 10 All India Coordinated Research Projects on va-